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ABSTRACT

This book is designed as a guide for teaching students about Hmong culture while building appreciation of worldwide cultural diversity. After providing an overview of the distinct history and customs of the Hmong, co-author Dia Cha shares her experiences growing up in Laotian villages, escaping from communist soldiers, living in refugee camps in Thailand, and coming to the United States. The following chapters contain activities, project ideas, and questions that fortify discussions of various threads of Hmong life: Farming and Food; Stories and Storytelling; Writing and Illustrating Stories; Hmong Folk Arts; and Customs and Symbols. By exploring traditions such as string tying ceremonies, the use of various musical instruments, and the meaning and artistry of "pa ndau" story cloths (squares of elaborate hand stitching), students can enjoy a broad perspective on this unique culture. More than 50 photos and illustrations detail the intricacies of various Hmong folk arts, day-to-day life, and special occasions. These stories, anecdotes, and activities based on Hmong traditions can help educators extend learning in subjects from social studies to fine arts and language arts. Includes a bibliography of audio and video productions, and an index. (AEF)

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